



## 7<sup>th</sup> Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Conference

18 – 21 October 2018 - Bangkok

***Role of Women Fish Workers Organizations towards Implementation and Monitoring of the Small - Scale Fisheries Guidelines African Women Fish workers and Processors Network (AWFISHNET)***

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# About AWFISHNET

## Back ground

- Fish and fishery products provide **food and nutrition security, income generation livelihoods and and economic development** for many African countries and people
- Recent statistics reveal that women make up more than one fourth **(27%)** of the work force in the African fisheries and aquaculture sector. The great majority of women are employed in post-harvest **(91.5%)** making significant contribution to food security, livelihoods and house hold incomes,
- Women remain marginalized within sector, both in terms of their **fishing-related activities** and their role in **decision-making** processes.

# Background Cont...

- A lack of access to credit, low levels of literacy, low bargaining power due partly to weak organization etc, access to and management of the fishery resources, are just some of the **effects of the marginalization of women in the sector**.
- An underlying problem is that at women have been **excluded from decision-making processes at all levels**, from community level to state level.

# High level policy interventions

- 2014, African HSG endorsed the Malabo declaration,
- Committed to boosting Intra-African trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services and to harnessing markets and trade opportunities.
- Resolved to triple, intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services by the year 2025. (fish enlisted as one of the priority commodity)
- Commitment to Halving Poverty by the year 2025, through Inclusive Agricultural Growth and Transformation
  - Sustain Annual sector growth in Agricultural GDP at least 6%
  - Establish and/or **strengthen inclusive public-private partnerships** for at least five (5) priority agricultural commodity value chains with strong linkage to smallholder agriculture.
  - Create **job opportunities** for at least **30% of the youth** in agricultural value chains.
  - Preferential **entry & participation by women** and youth in gainful and attractive agribusiness

# High level policy interventions: PFRS

- **Blue print for the sustainable management and development** of fisheries and aquaculture sector
- **Overall goal:** Creating a conducive and enabling environment for the fish sector to create equitable, social and economic development in Africa
- **Objective:** Provide structured guidance to Africa's fisheries to facilitate reforms towards coherent national and regional policies for sustainable social, environmental and profitable outcomes for Africa and its people

# POLICY ARENAS OF THE PFRS

- Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use
- **Small-scale Fisheries Development**
- Sustainable Aquaculture Development
- **Responsible and Equitable Fish Trade and Marketing: Policy Objective: Harness Significantly the Benefits of Africa's Fisheries and Aquaculture Endowments through Accelerated Trade and Marketing**
- Strengthened Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation
- Awareness Enhancing and Human-Capacity Development
- High Seas Fisheries
- Cross-Cutting -Resilience to CC, **G&Y**, Private Sector Investments & Financing Mechanisms

# PFRS-EXPECTED OUTCOMES

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Conditions for Value Addition                             | Safety and Quality Requirements Adopted                               |
| Capacity of Producers and Operators Improved              | Market Led Measures (e.gEco-labeling, Certification) evaluated        |
| Access and Competitiveness of Products Enhanced           | TradeFacilitation Strategies Enhanced                                 |
| Domestic and Regional African trade Promoted              | RegionalSupply and Demand Trends Understood                           |
| Enhanced Women Participation                              | Appropriate Policies and Governance Mechanisms Introduced             |
| Post Harvest, Infrastructure and Value Chains Established | REC's trade policies incorporated in National Regulation and Enforced |
| ParticipatoryFisheries Management Approaches Introduced   |   |

# PFRS: Policy actions on SSF and Gender considerations

- **SSF: Major expected Outcomes:**
  - Fishers are organized to foster good fisheries governance, sustainable development and responsible use of natural resources
  - Capacity of fisheries stakeholders and institutions for participatory management of the fisheries are developed and nurtured
- **Gender and youth development**
  - To recognize the critical role played by women and put in place mechanisms to promote and protect women's rights to participate in all aspects of fisheries and aquaculture.
  - Seek to improve access of women to fish and fish markets, particularly through the provision of credit at affordable rates.



# AWFISHNET Conception

- **October 2016: ToT workshop on Fish Handling, Hygiene and SPS Measures along the Post-Harvest value chain (Uganda and Senegal)**
- **A strong recommendation to AU-IBAR facilitate the establishing a continental network**



# AWFISHNET Launched April 2017

## Dar Es Salaam - Tanzania



# OBJECTIVES



- Facilitate **collaboration** and **cooperation** between women fish processors and traders associations in the continent;
- Share best practices, experiences, technologies and learning together;
- **Advocate** for issues affecting women's activities and facilitate enabling **policy** environment to enhance their role in the fisheries sector in the continent;
- Attract increased public & private investment in fish post-harvest sector (fish processing and trading);
- Strengthen their role as SME and hence **expand their market** and marketing opportunities, resulting in improved intra-regional African fish trade.
- Improved Food and Nutrition security
- to improve the quality of life of women and their households.

# Specific Objectives

For Establishing a network of African women fish processors and traders associations:

- Raise awareness on the need to improve living and working conditions of women in small scale fisheries especially in post-harvest sector within AU-MS;
- Advocate on the key role played by the African women in Fisheries particularly in post harvest sector;
- guide and structure the improvement of fish post-harvest activities in the continent



# Members of AWFISHNET

The network draws its members from 28 African Union countries namely;

1. Algeria,
2. Benin,
3. Burkina Faso,
4. Burundi,
5. Cameroon,
6. Chad,
7. Comoros,
8. Congo,
9. Cote D'ivoire,
10. D.R. Congo,
11. Egypt,
12. Ghana,
13. Guinea,
14. Kenya,
15. Liberia,
16. Madagascar,
17. Malawi,
18. Mali,
19. Mauritania,
20. Nigeria,
21. Senegal,
22. Sierra Leone,
23. South Sudan,
24. Tanzania,
25. Togo,
26. Tunisia,
27. Uganda,
28. Zambia;



# AWFISHNET Bureau



- The bureau of the network was elected as follows:
- Chairperson: **Mrs Beyene Ateba Baliaba** - Cameroun
  - 1st Vice chairperson: **Mrs Jeriedayaro Patricia Uwheraka** – Nigeria
  - 2nd Vice Chairperson: **Ms. Sihem Hammad** - Algeria
- Secretary General: **Mrs. Editrudith Lukanga** - Tanzania
  - 1st Deputy Secretary General: **Ms. Magne Kaptue Flore** - Cameroun
  - 2nd Deputy Secretary general: **Mrs. Gomez Ayaba Victoire** - Benin
- Treasurer: **Mrs. Susan Odour** - Kenya
  - Deputy treasurer: **Ms. Marwa Mamdouh Lotfy** - Egypt
- People with Disability Representative: **Mrs. Maisha Ishingwa Patricia** -DRC
- Youth representative: **Ms. Kasazi Lutuno Nyendwa** - Zambia



## The First Bureau Meeting, Held in June 2018



# As a network, we have work to do including to,

- Develop and implement public awareness campaigns and actions on specific fish processing and trading issues;
- Facilitate multi-stakeholder activities and events such as round table discussions, public and private sector engagement;
- Organize capacity building activities and advocate on policy change;
- Demonstrate practical ways of overcoming obstacles and barriers in adopting best practice;
- Improve and broaden networks and coalitions with relevant and like-minded organizations;
- Advocate for the development and introduction of favorable financing options for women fish processors and traders (including the piloting as well as evaluation of innovative financial instruments);
- Collate information from independent research to inform policies at the continental level;



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- Disseminate information on matters pertaining to the interests of women fish processors and traders through their various networks and channels;
- Carry out independent monitoring and evaluation of implementation of Policy Framework Reform Strategies (PFRS) and other relevant policy instruments at national, regional and continental level;
- Facilitate implementation of the PFRS and other policy instrument initiatives at national, regional and global (**SSF guidelines**) level ;
- Hold meetings and implement decisions made at General Assembly meetings;
- Carry out advocacy on the development and application of legislation (including legislation to facilitate free trade of fish products amongst member states).

We have work to do including to,

- In order to affirm the women's commitment to strengthening the position and contribution of African women fish processors and traders to the agenda given women's key role as stakeholders of the sector and of African society.
- To strengthen Capacities of National member organizations where they exist and to establish new ones where they are not.
- Strength of AWFISHNET lies on the hands of the National Associations

# THANK YOU - ASANTE

